

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 024677

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, CS

SUBJECT: FONMIN FACIO INQUIRIES ABOUT MIDSHIPMAN FURNISS

REF: AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE 302

1. REFERENCE TEL EXPRESSED THE INTEREST OF FONMIN IN THE STATUS OF MIDSHIPMAN VAN JAMES FURNISS AT THE U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY, ANNAPOLIS, MD (USNA). FYI: MIDN FURNISS, DURING HIS THREE SEMESTERS AT USNA, ALTHOUGH ARTICULATE AND PLEASANT, HAS LACKED INITIATIVE AND MOTIVATION, AND HAS FAILED TO PRODUCE AN ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL REQUIRED FOR RETENTION AT THE NAVAL ACADEMY. HE HAS BEEN GIVEN EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE, INCLUDING FREQUENT COUNSELING AND GOAL SETTING GUIDANCE. MIDN FURNISS ADMITS THAT HE HAS NOT EXERTED HIMSELF ACADEMICALLY. END FYI.

2. IN THE SEMESTER JUST COMPLETED, HE HAS FAILED THREE SUBJECTS (ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING LAB AND NAVIGATION). DURING THE SEMESTER, HE DID NOT AVAIL HIMSELF OF OFFERED EXTRA ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE DESPITE MARGINAL GRADES. AUTHORITIES AT THE NAVAL ACADEMY HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH HIS FATHER, AMBASSADOR FURNISS, APPRISING

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PAGE 02 STATE 024677

HIM IN DETAIL OF HIS SON'S DIFFICULTIES.

3. ON 27 AND 29 JANUARY 75, THE SUPERINTENDENT, VADM MACK, REVIEWED HIS STATUS. IT WAS DETERMINED THAT MIDN FURNISS' TENURE AT THE ACADEMY SHOULD BE TERMINATED FOR ACADEMIC REASONS. USNA AUTHORITIES ADVISED AMB FURNISS OF THESE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS ON 30 JANUARY 75.

4. THE ABOVE BACKGROUND INFO IS PROVIDED FOR DISCLOSURE AT YOUR DISCRETION TO THE FONMIN. KISSINGER

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